

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 17 January 2008.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10, 12, 22, and 23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10-13 and 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (US 6,151,464) in view of Takagi et al. (US 6,762,853).
5. Regarding Claim 10, Nakamura et al teaches a method comprising: an imaging device printing documents when proximity of the user is detected (digital copying machine is capable of checking an ID number of a user who has entered the control area of the digital copying machine) col. 19, lines 20-29; a client device automatically providing to the to the imaging service a user identification associated with the user (ID number is attached to the image data as information) (col. 19, lines 4-9); the imaging service receiving and storing the user identification (user's ID number are stored along with correspondence therebetween) (col. 19, lines 10-19); the imaging service delaying

printing of the selected document (user allowed to select a certain print job from a plurality of print jobs listed) (col.21, lines 59-67, col. 22, lines 1-5); the printer detecting proximity of the user (digital copying machine is capable of checking an ID number of a user who has entered the control area of the digital copying machine) col. 19, lines 20-29); responsive to the detected proximity, the printer printing the selected document of the user (print job outputted in response to the user's ID card) (col.21, lines 59-67, col. 22, lines 1-5).

Nakamura et al fails to teach a method comprising: a user browsing to a network using a network browser that executes on a client device; the image service downloading a user interface to the network browser, the user interface enabling the user to select documents to be printed and to select a private printing option; receiving from the client device a request to print a selected document on a printer and a personal identification number (PIN); the printer receiving input by the user of the PIN; and responsive to the input of the PIN, the printer printing the selected document for the user.

Takagi et al teaches a method comprising: a user browsing to a network using a network browser that executes on a client device (a Web browser operates on the operational management client) (col. 11, line 67, col. 12, lines 1-6); the image service downloading a user interface to the network browser, the user interface enabling the user to select documents to be printed and to select a private printing option (Fig. 11) (window for managing private print jobs is displayed) (col. 7, lines 56-65); receiving from the client device a request to print a selected document on a printer and a personal

identification number (PIN) (Fig. 12) (inputting a user name and password) (col. 7, lines 56-65); the printer receiving input by the user of the PIN (Fig. 8) (when "private print" is selected, a window for inputting a user name and password is displayed) (col. 6, lines 5-15); and responsive to the input of the PIN, the printer printing the selected document for the user (printed after the operator inputs a password from the operation unit of the digital copying machine) (col. 4, lines 54-60).

Nakamura and Takagi fail to teach a method comprising: responsive to the combination of the detected proximity and input of the PIN, the printer printing the selected document for the user.

However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teaching of Nakamura with the teaching of Takagi to require both the proximity sensor and PIN in order to provide an extra layer of security for the printing of private/confidential documents.

6. Regarding Claim 11, Nakamura et al teaches a method,, wherein automatically detecting proximity comprises detecting when the user is within a threshold distance (predetermined area) of the printer, wherein the threshold distance is no greater than a range of a proximity sensor that is part of the printer (digital copying machine always checks presence of an ID card in a predetermined area with use of the traveling object identifying device) (col. 20, lines 66-67, col. 21, lines 1-7).

7. Regarding Claim 12, Nakamura et al fails to teach a method, wherein the web imaging service is embedded in the printer.

Takagi et al teaches a method, wherein the web imaging service is embedded in the printer (web server operates on the digital copying machine) (col. 12, lines 1-2).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teaching of Nakamura with the teaching of Takagi to use an embedded web server installed on the digital copying machine for secure printing of documents.

8. Regarding Claim 13, Nakamura et al teaches a method, wherein the imaging service is included in a proxy server coupled to the printer (print server) (col. 20, lines 23-28).

9. Regarding Claim 22, Nakamura et al teaches a system comprising: a network service is configured to receive the print request, and the identity of the user, and the PIN from the client computing device, to automatically detect when the user is in close physical proximity to the printer by identifying the identity of the user being located on a device within a range of a proximity sensor at the network service (digital copying machine is capable of checking an ID number of a user who has entered the control area of the digital copying machine) (col. 19, lines 20-29), and waiting to print to delay printing of the requested document until the user has been detected in close physical proximity to the printer (user allowed to select a certain print job from a plurality of print jobs listed) (col. 21, lines 59-67, col. 22, lines 1-5).

Nakamura et al fails to teach a system comprising: a client computing device configured to execute a network browser via which content representing a printer can be displayed to allow a user of the client computing device to request a document to be

printed at the printer and provide a personal identification number (PIN), to automatically detect an identity of the user, and to communicate the print request, the identity of the user, and the PIN to network service; and to receive the PIN when input into the printer by the user, and waiting to print to delay printing of the requested document until the user has input the PIN.

Takagi et al teaches a system comprising: a client computing device configured to execute a network browser via which content representing a printer can be displayed (a web browser operates on the operational management client) (col. 11, line 67, col. 12, lines 1-6) to allow a user of the client computing device to request a document to be printed at the printer (Fig. 11) (window for managing private print jobs is displayed) (col. 7, lines 56-65) and provide a personal identification number (PIN), to automatically detect an identity of the user (Fig. 12) (inputting a user name and password), and to communicate the print request, the identity of the user, and the PIN to network service (communication between the operational management client and the digital copying machine) (col. 5, lines 7-18); and to receive the PIN when input into the printer by the user (when "private print" is selected, a window for inputting a user name and password is displayed), and waiting to print to delay printing of the requested document until the user has input the PIN (printed after the operator inputs a password from the operation unit of the digital copying machine) (col. 4, lines 54-60).

Nakamura and Takagi fail to teach a system comprising: responsive to the combination of the detected proximity and input of the PIN, the printer printing the selected document for the user.

However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teaching of Nakamura with the teaching of Takagi to require both the proximity sensor and PIN in order to provide an extra layer of security for the printing of private/confidential documents.

10. Regarding Claim 23, Nakamura et al fails to teach a system, wherein the network service is embedded in the printer.

Takagi et al teaches a system, wherein the network service is embedded in the printer (web server operates on the digital copying machine) (col. 12, lines 1-2).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teaching of Nakamura with the teaching of Takagi to use an embedded web server installed on the digital copying machine for secure printing of documents.

11. Regarding Claim 24, Nakamura et al teaches a system, wherein the network service is included in a proxy server coupled to the printer (print server) (col. 20, lines 23-28).

12. Regarding Claim 25, Nakamura fails to teach a system, wherein the content representing the printer enables the user to select a private printing option along with the request for the document to be printed.

13. Takagi teaches a system, wherein the content representing the printer enables the user to select a private printing option along with the request for the document to be printed (Fig. 11) (window for managing private print jobs is displayed) (col. 7, lines 56-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teaching of Nakamura with the teaching of Takagi to allow a user to select private printing when outputting a print job in order to provide an extra layer of security for the printing of private/confidential documents.

14. Regarding Claim 26, Nakamura teaches a system, wherein automatically detecting the identity of the user comprises querying an operating system of the client computing device for the identity (user's ID number are stored along with correspondence therebetween) (col. 19, lines 10-19).

15. Regarding Claim 27, Nakamura teaches a system, wherein automatically detecting the identity of the user comprises using a proximity sensor that is part of the client computing device to identify the user identification from a device worn by the user (ID card in which his/her own ID number is recorded) (col. 19, lines 10-29).

16. Regarding Claim 28, Nakamura teaches a system, wherein the client device provides the user identification to the imaging service along with the request to print a selected document (ID number is attached to the image data as information) (col. 19, lines 4-9).

17. Regarding Claim 29, Nakamura teaches a system, wherein the client device provides the user identification to the imaging service along with the request to print a selected document (ID number is attached to the image data as information) (col. 19, lines 4-9).

Conclusion

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SATWANT K. SINGH whose telephone number is (571)272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

sks

/Mark K Zimmerman/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625